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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/625,893	07/26/2000	Donald Wayne Allen	TH1258 (US)	8026

7590 09/21/2004

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EXAMINER

MITCHELL, KATHERINE W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3677

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary

Application No.

09/625,893

Applicant(s)

ALLEN ET AL.

Examiner

Katherine W Mitchell

Art Unit

3677

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Katherine W Mitchell.

(3) _____.

(2) Eugene Montalvo.

(4) _____.

Date of Interview: 16 September 2004.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference

c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☐ No.

If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 4.

Identification of prior art discussed: US 6571878 and the Allen Paper.

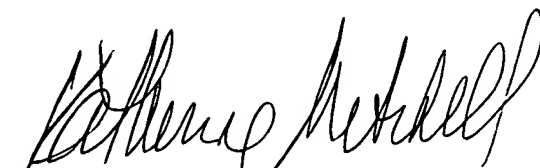
Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☒ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required



Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicant questioned TD requirement, as '878 patent specified a marine buoyancy element and application does not require buoyancy element. Examiner stated that '878 claim 1 is considered to make obvious a broad marine element with the same k/D values. TD was not required because of a possible extension of rights issue, but to prevent "hassassment by multiple assignees" if rights to the pending application and '878 were ever separately sold or transferred. Finally, regarding the rejection that the Allen paper and its affidavit seem to contradict the claims of the pending application, the concern is that the Allen declaration states that the same exact structure of the pending application was used in the Allen paper but did not decrease drag and VIV unless a strongback was inserted. Thus it seems to contradict that the pending application works. Examiner acknowledges that Dr. Allen is clearly a recognized expert in the field, and there is no challenge of his declaration. Any response as to why the pending application does work would need an explanation of what is different between the non-strongback structure in the Allen paper and the pending claims. Examiner would appreciate if applicant could identify where the support for any such difference is to assist in examination, and reminded applicant that the drawings had considerable features shown and could be used as support if needed. .